

2018 Recreational Boating Incident Summary



Boating In Virginia

- River Miles – 52,225 miles (source VDEQ)
- Coastline – 132 miles (source VIMS)
- Tidal Shore – 7,213 (source VIMS)
- Inland Lakes – 116,364 acres (source VDEQ)



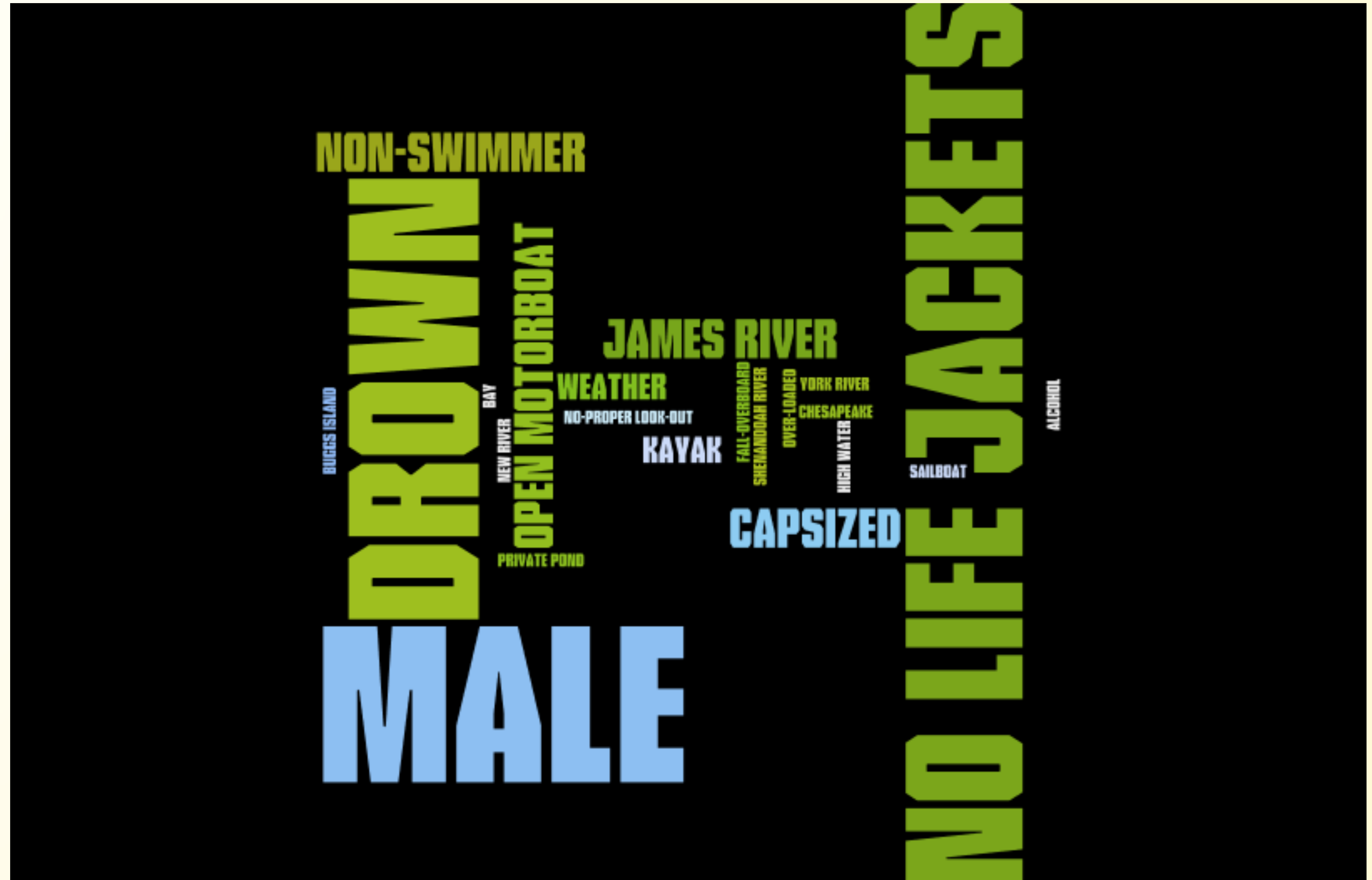
Reportable Incidents

Incidents that are required to be reported to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

- Damage over \$2,000 by or to the vessel or its equipment
- Injury requiring medical assistance beyond first aid
- Loss of life
- Disappearance of any person from a vessel



Factors Associated with Boating Fatalities



2018 Virginia Boating Incident Summary *

- **Number of Incidents = 82**
- **Number of Vessels Involved = 97**
- **Number of Injuries = 41**
- **Number of Fatalities = 12**
 - **Alcohol was a known factor in 17% of fatal incidents.**
 - **Paddlecraft (canoes and kayaks) were involved in 33% of fatal incidents.**
 - **In 92% of fatal incidents no life jacket was worn**
- **Property Damage = \$411,961.00**

*** reported to DGIF**

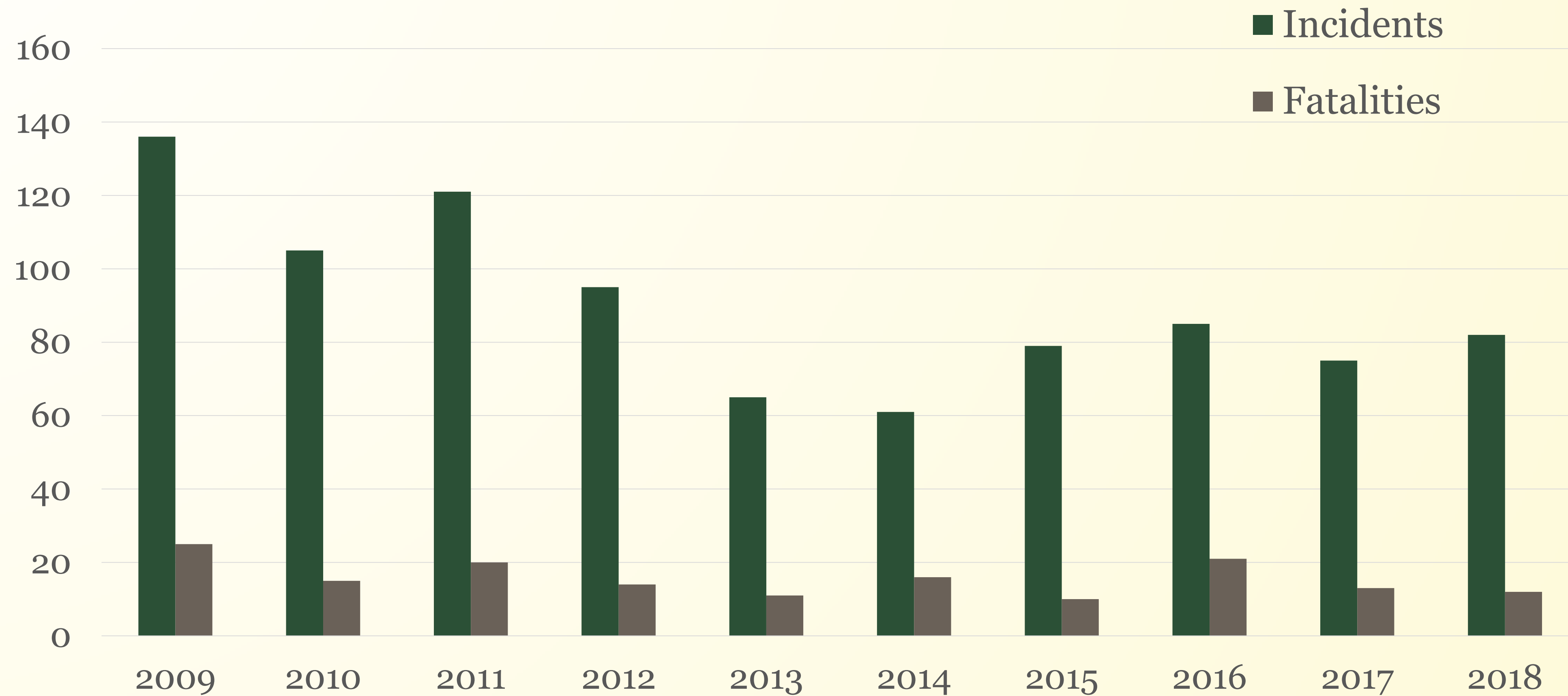


10 Year Boat Incident Summary

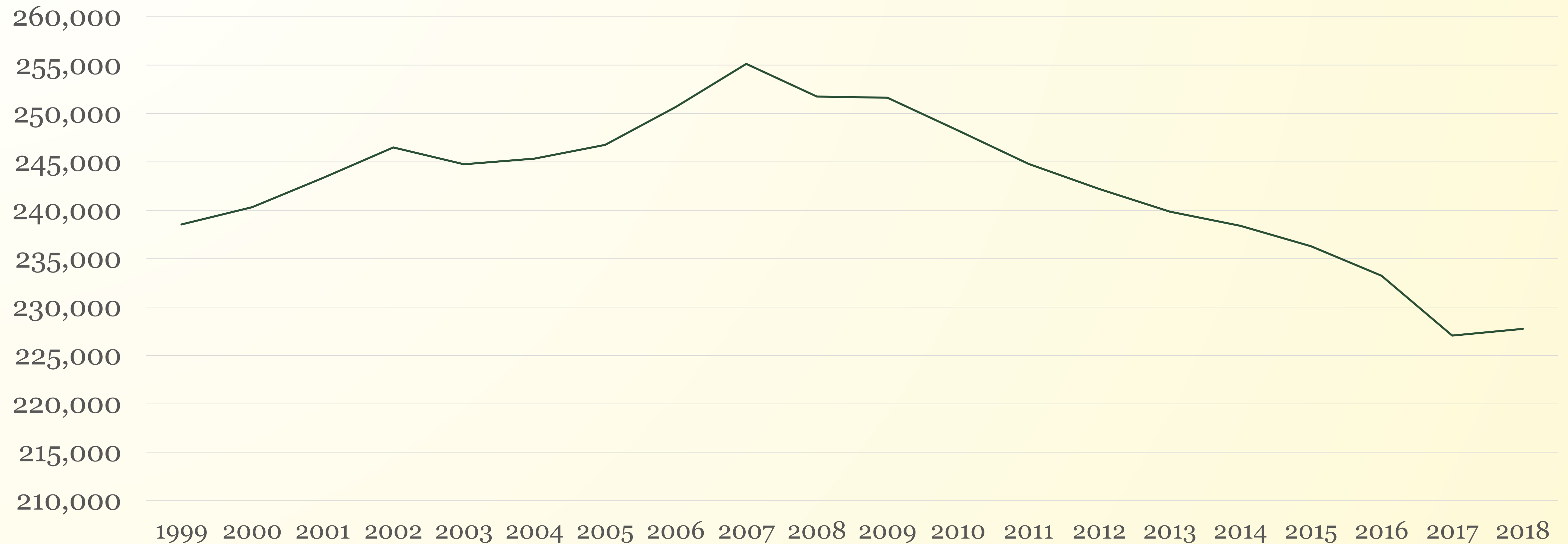
Year	Incidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Property Damage
2009	136	91	25	\$907,900
2010	105	79	15	\$1,898,499
2011	121	95	20	\$1,226,360
2012	95	64	14	\$476,584
2013	65	44	11	\$981,945
2014	61	38	16	\$617,916
2015	79	39	10	\$441,301
2016	85	42	21	\$576,546
2017	75	44	13	\$308,160
2018	82	41	12	\$411,961



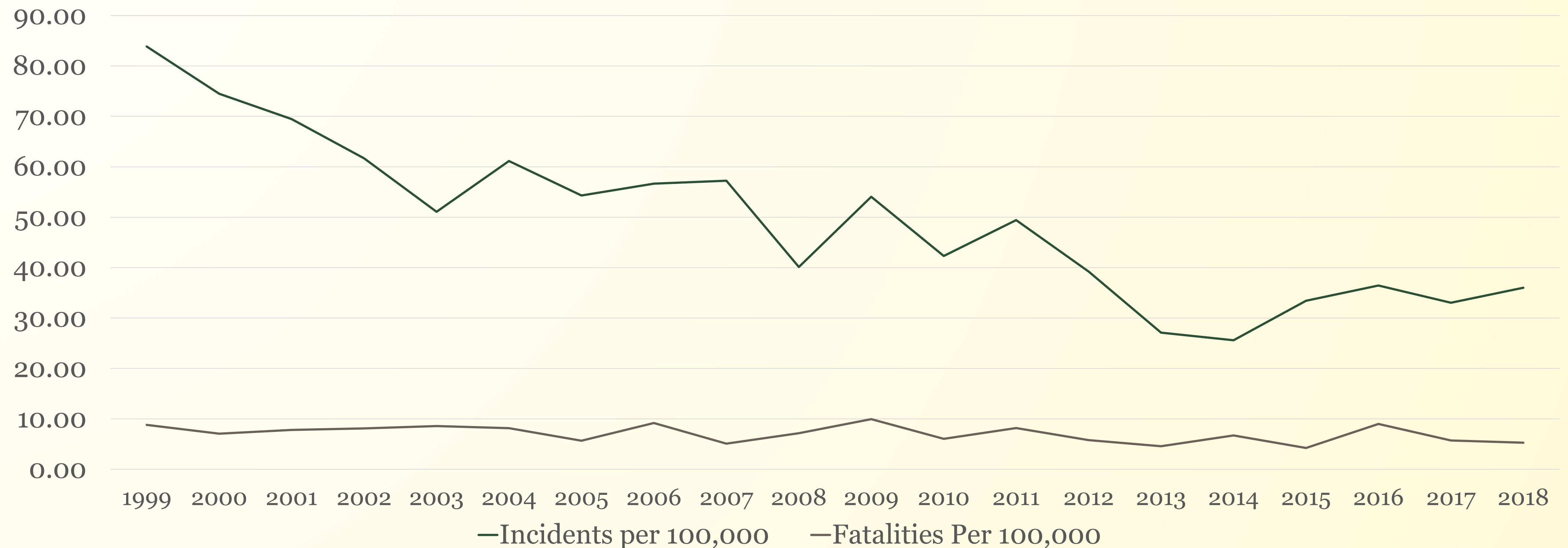
10 Year Boat Incident Statistics



Recreational Vessels Registered in Virginia by Year 1999-2018



Annual Recreational Boating Incident Rate* 1999 - 2018 (per 100,000 Registered Boats)

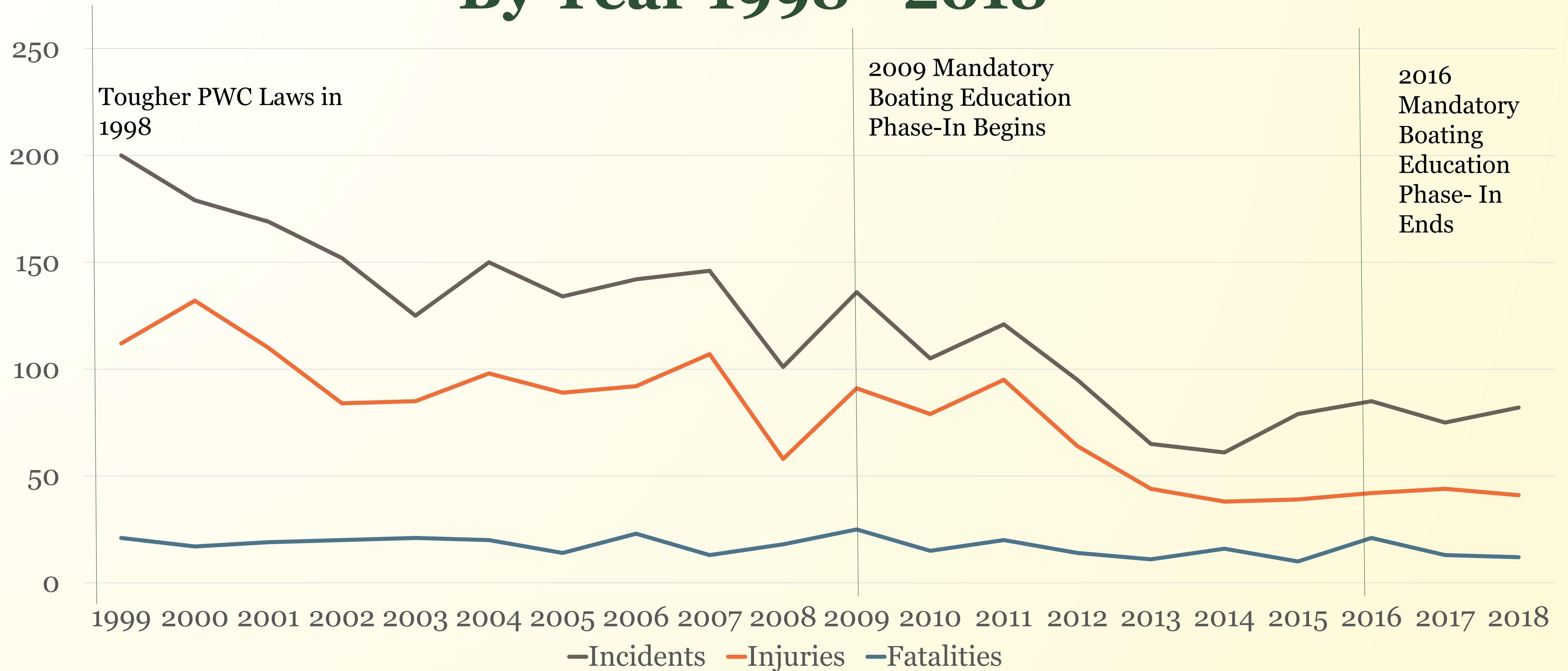


* These rates include paddlecraft fatalities although paddlecraft are not registered in Virginia

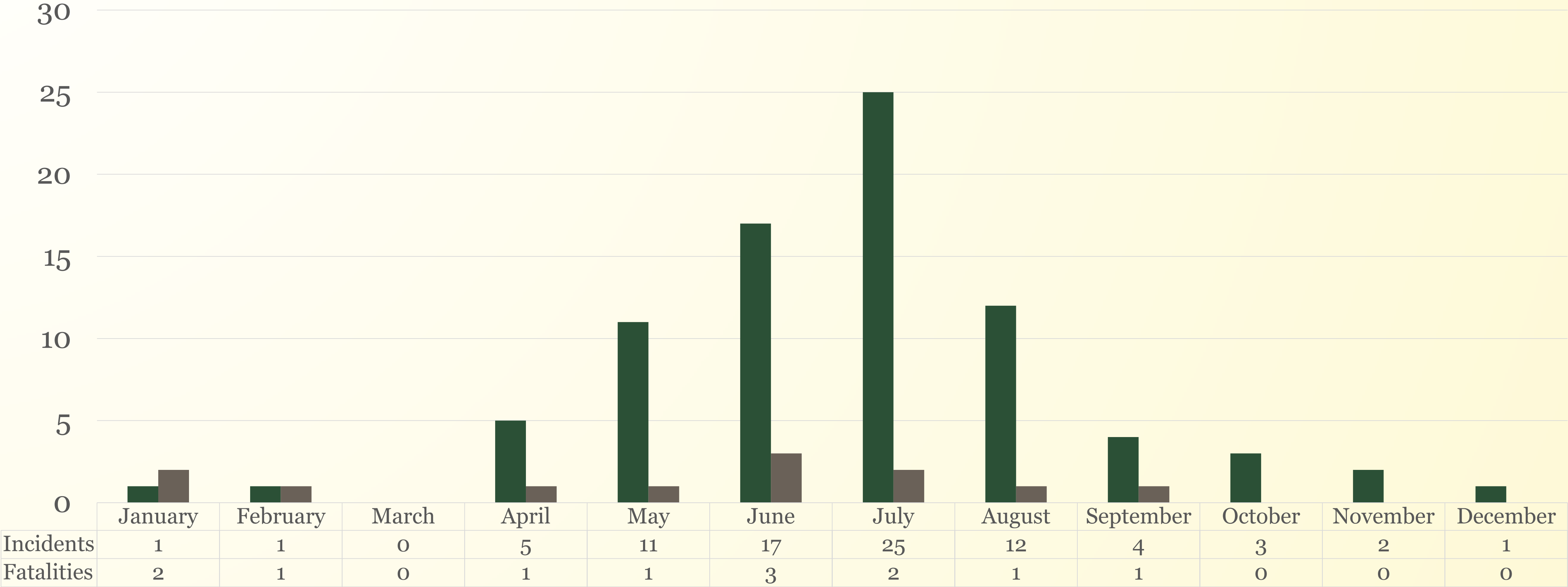


Fatalities, Injuries, and Incidents

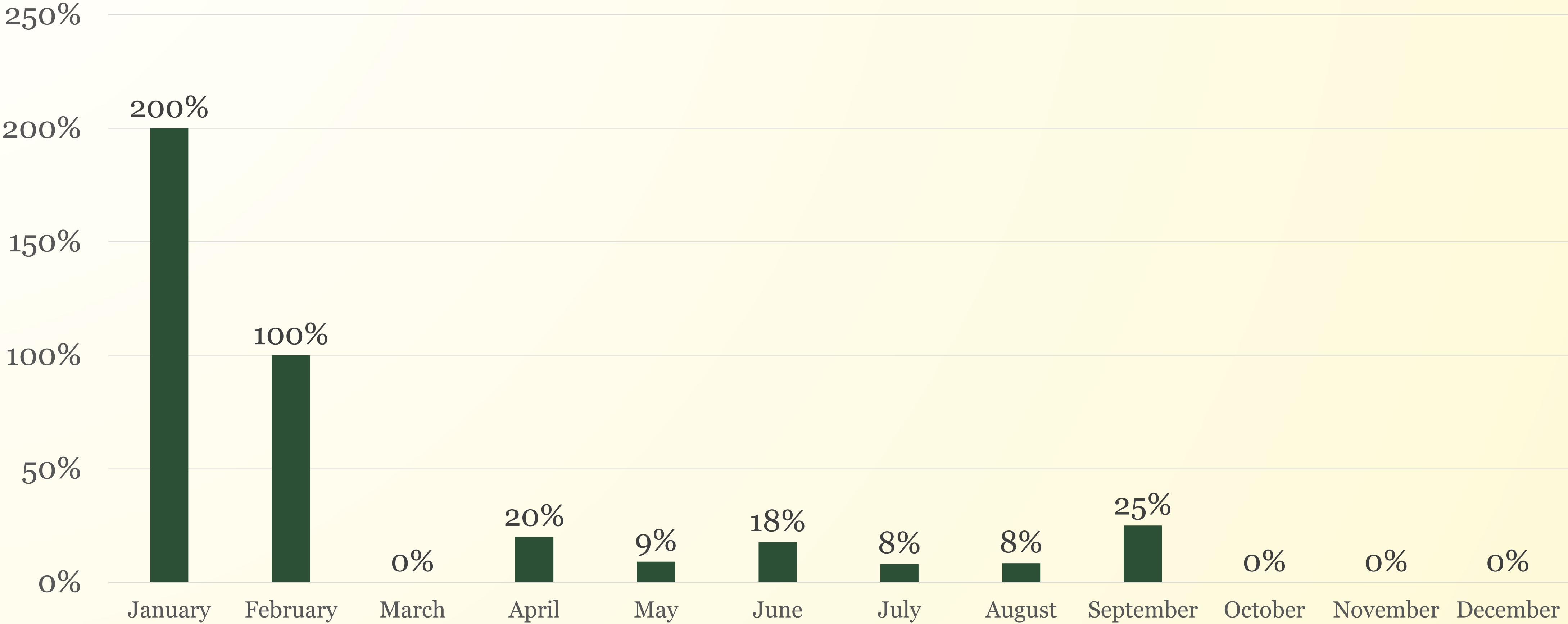
By Year 1998 - 2018



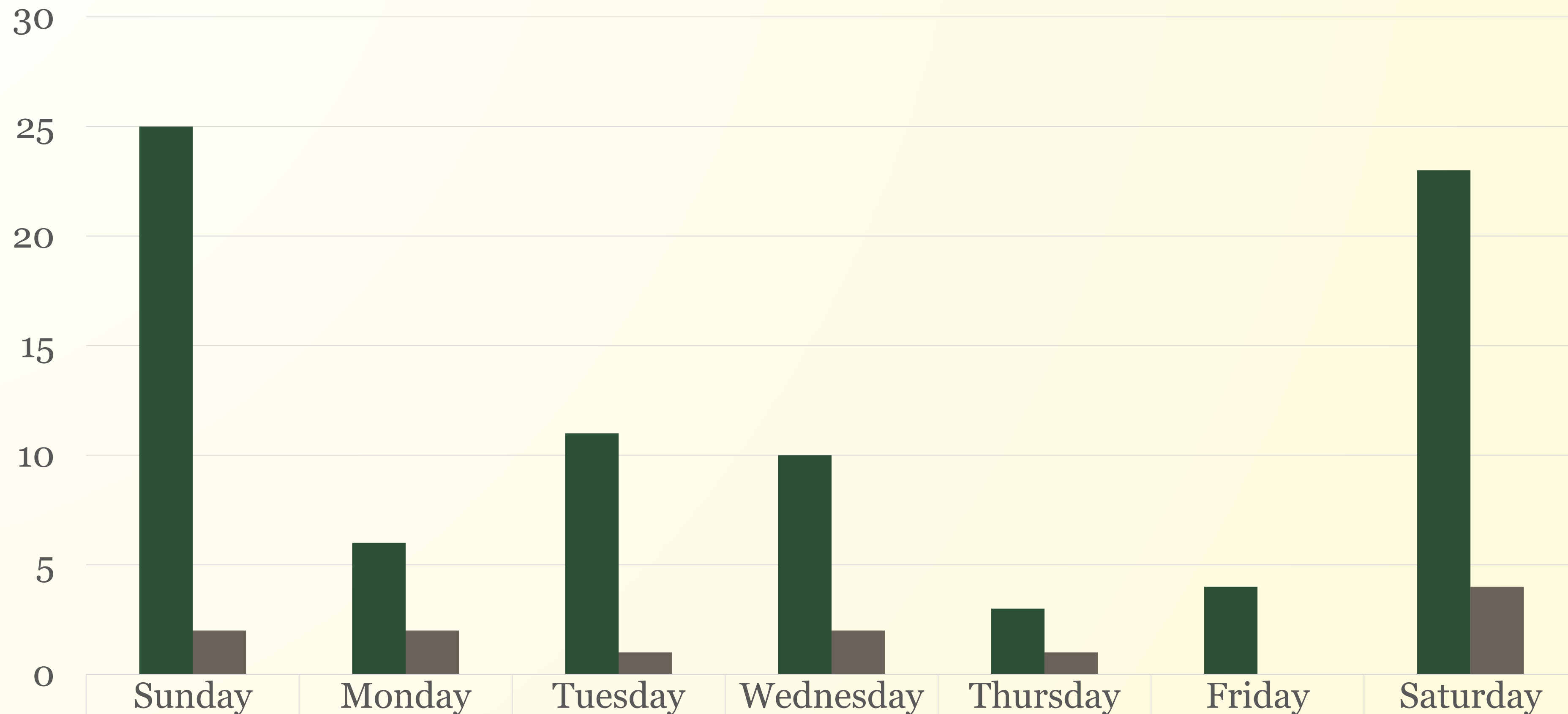
2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Month



2018 Percentage of Incidents Each Month that were Fatal



2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Day of Week

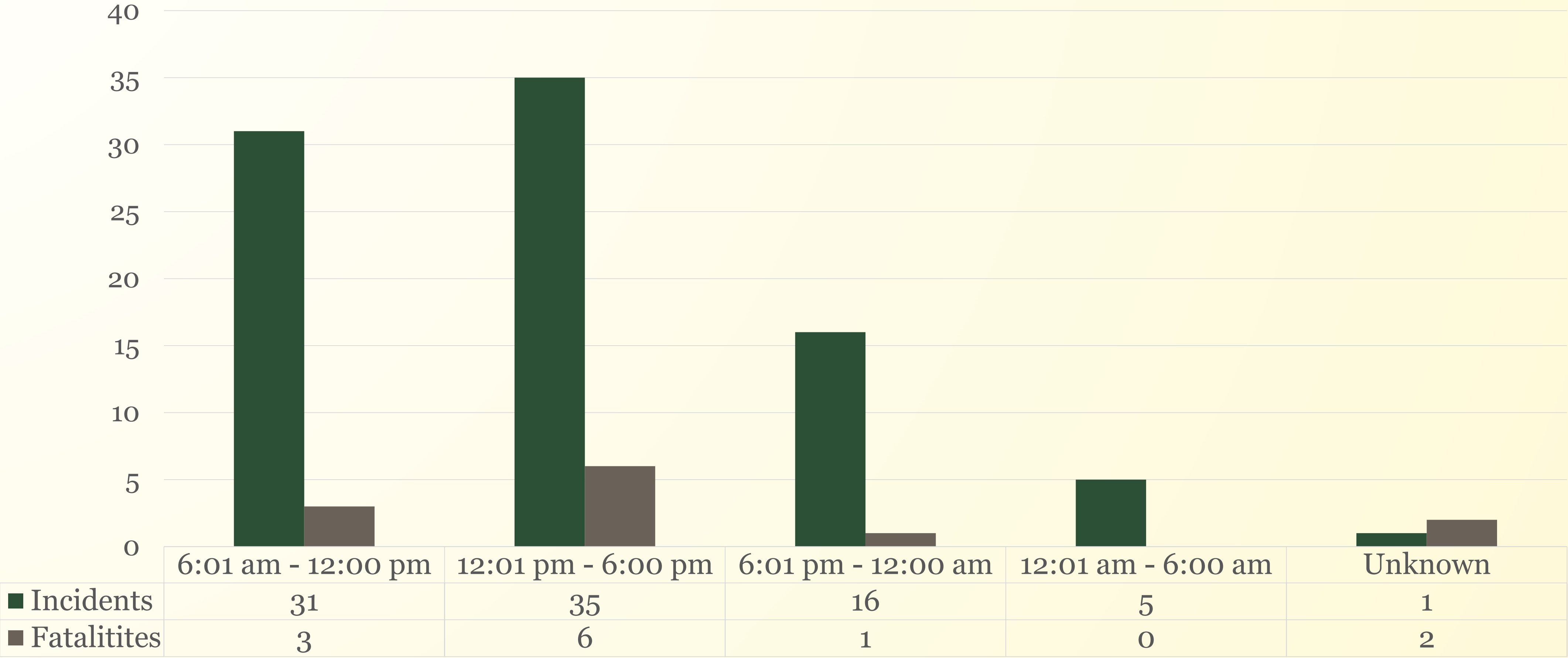


■ Incidents	25	6	11	10	3	4	23
■ Fatalities	2	2	1	2	1	0	4



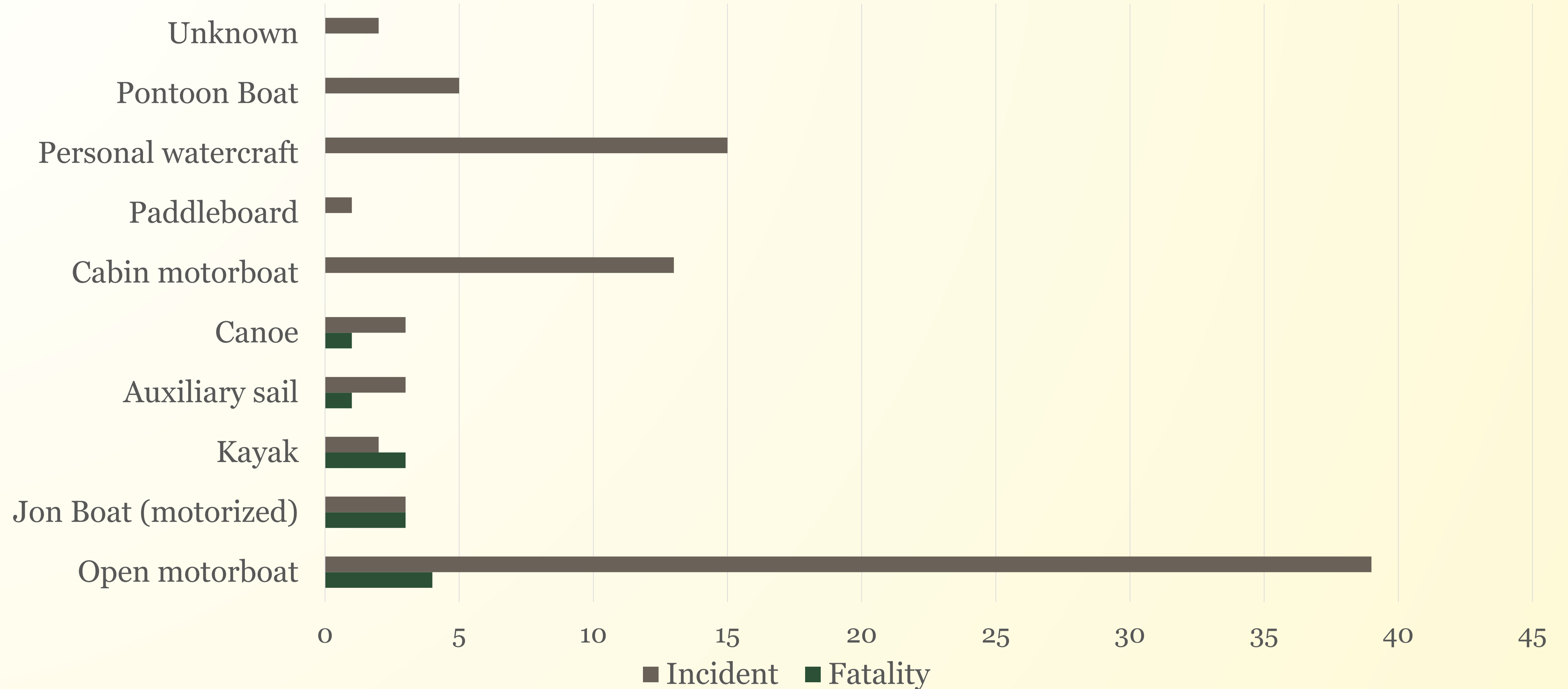
2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

By Time of Day

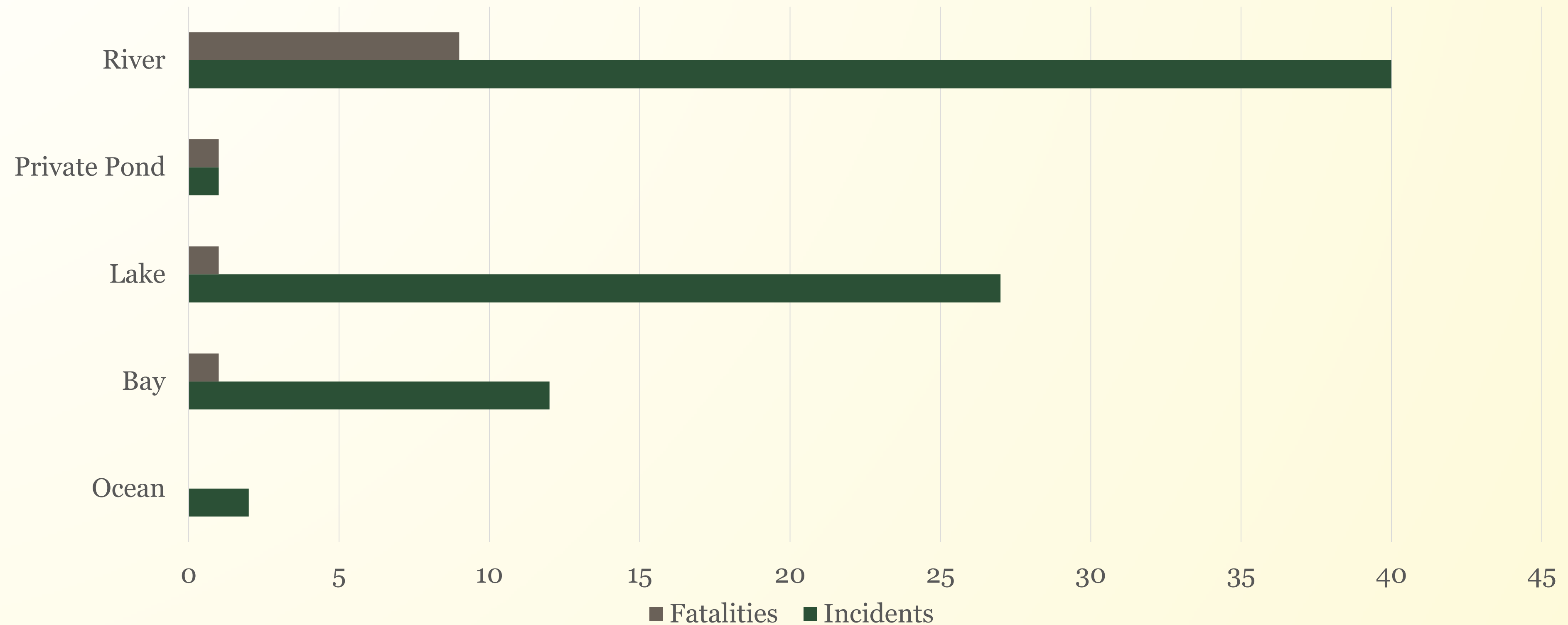


2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

By Vessel Type

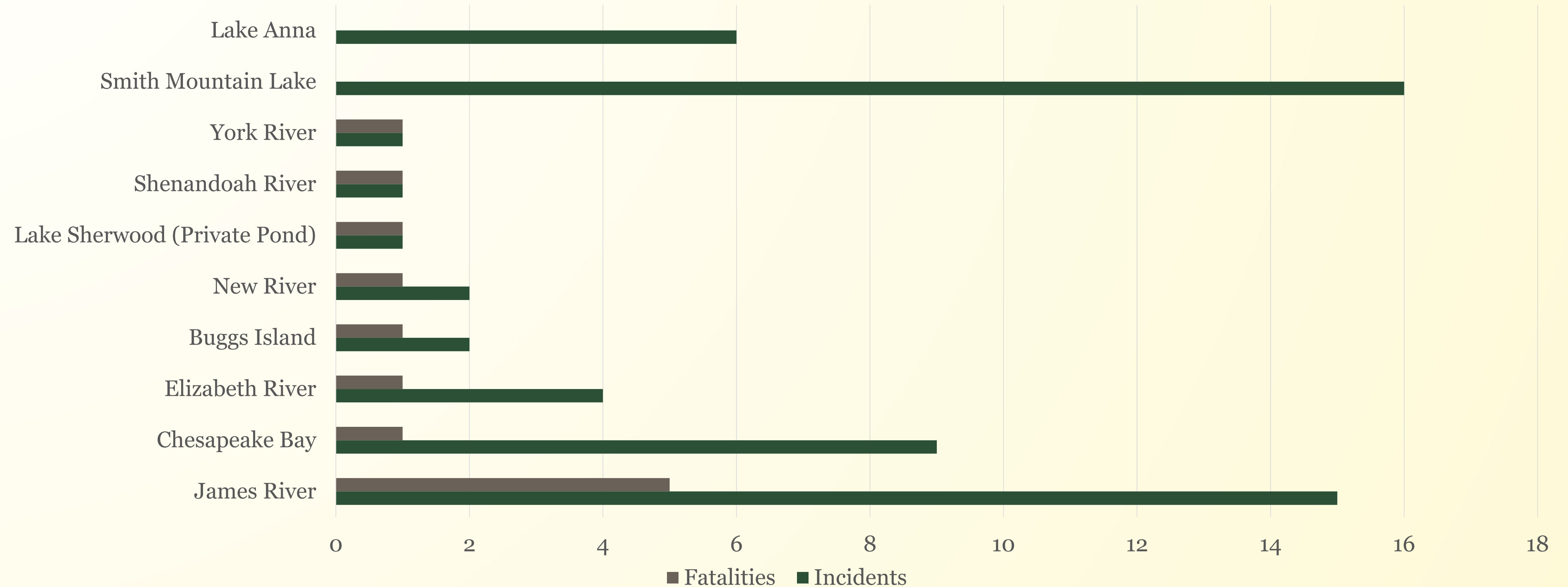


2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Water Body Type



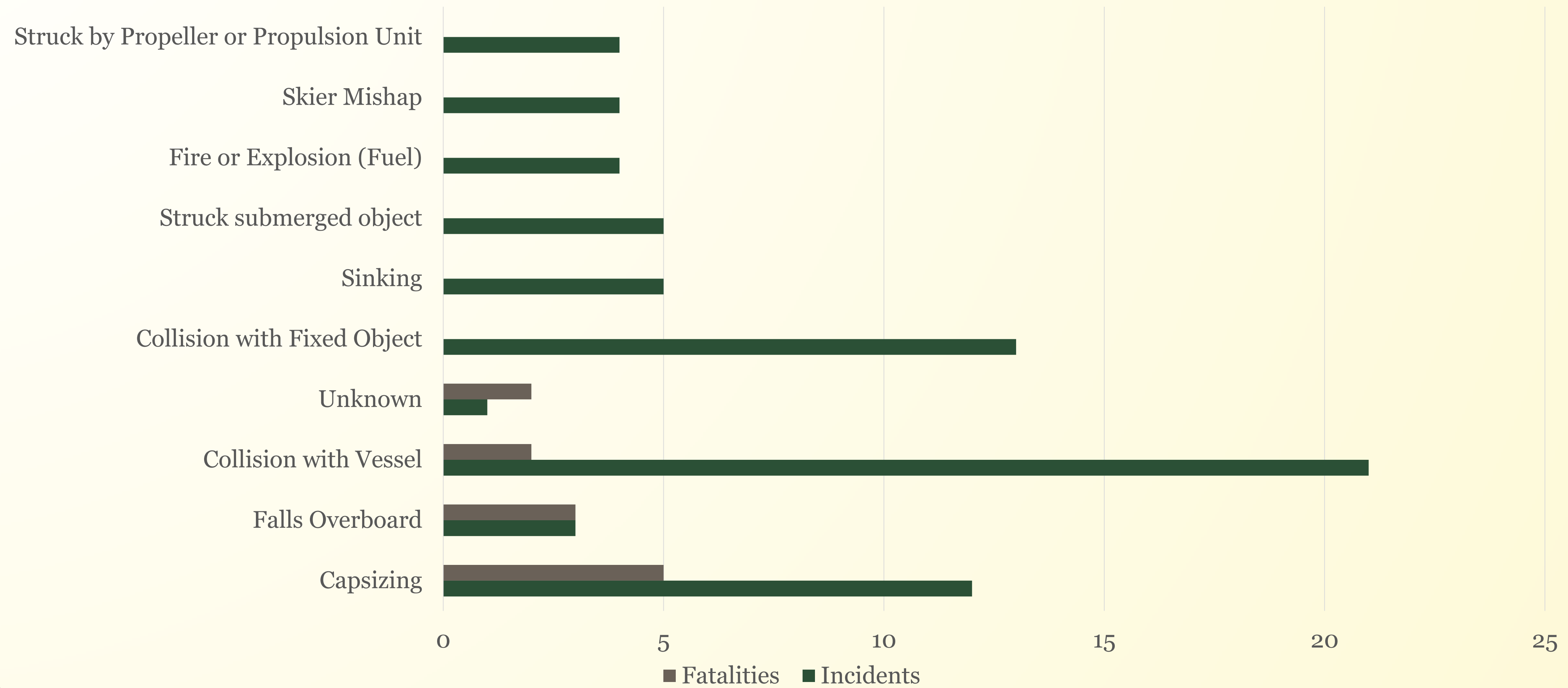
2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

Top Locations of Incidents

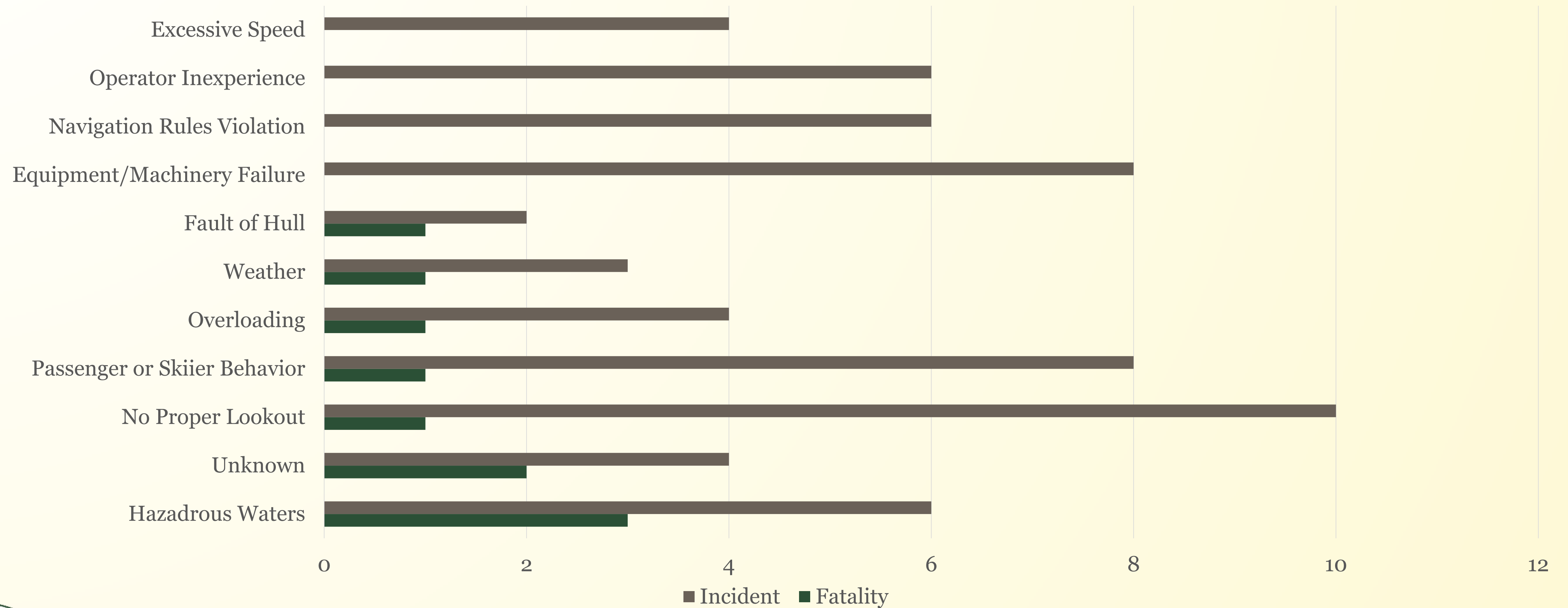


2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

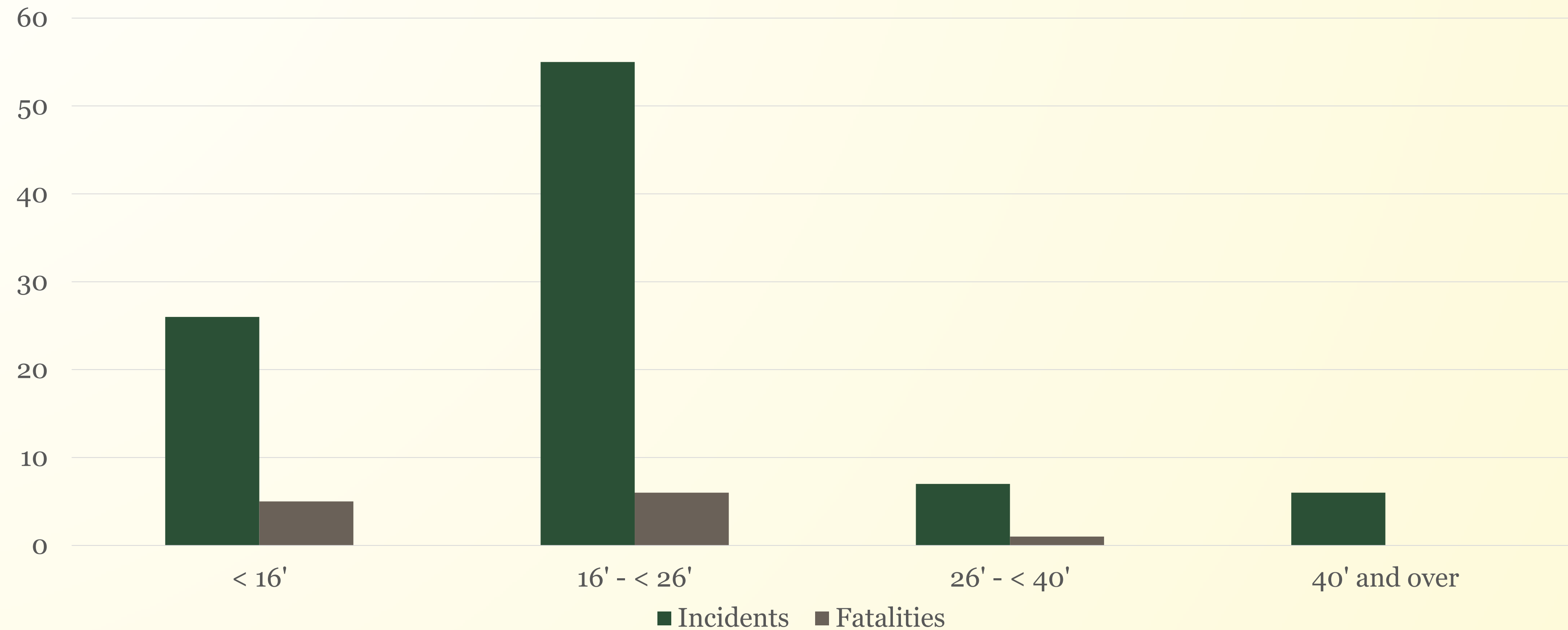
Top Primary Incident Types



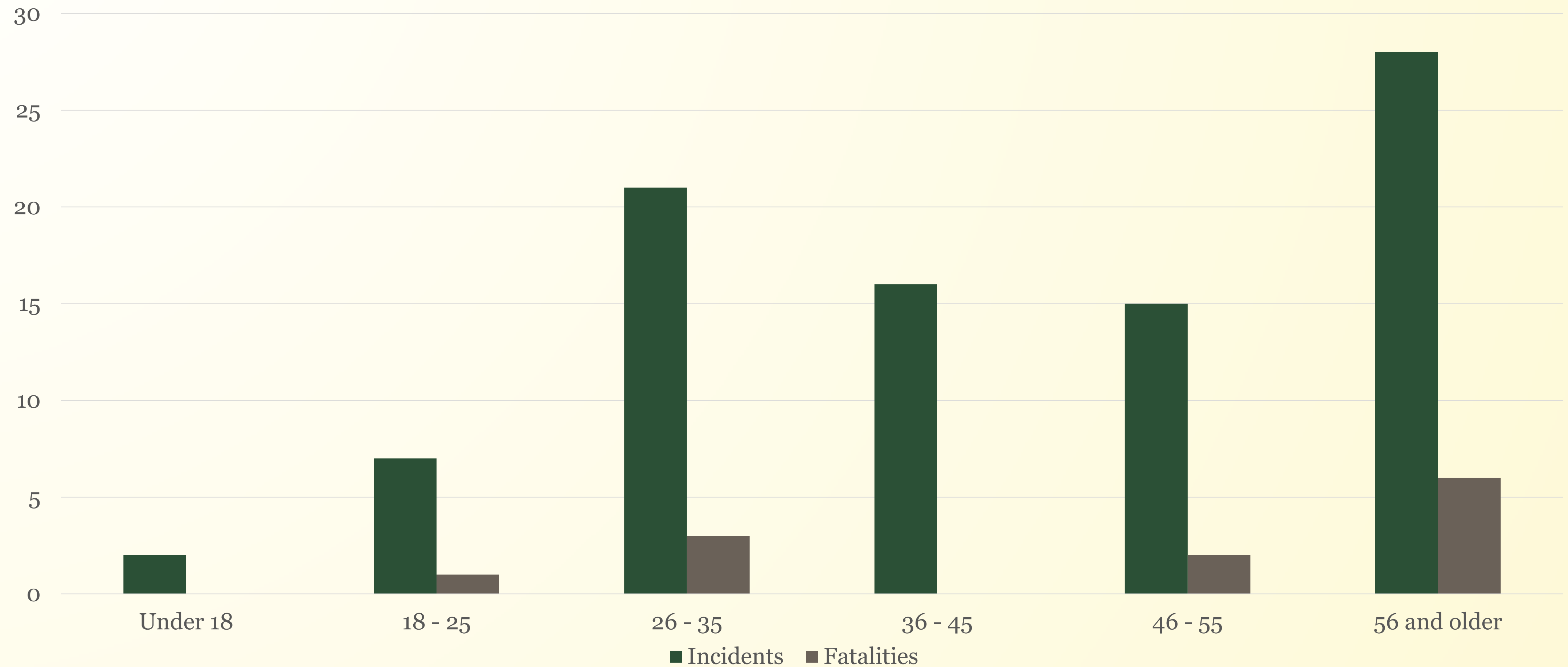
2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities – Top Primary Contributing Factor



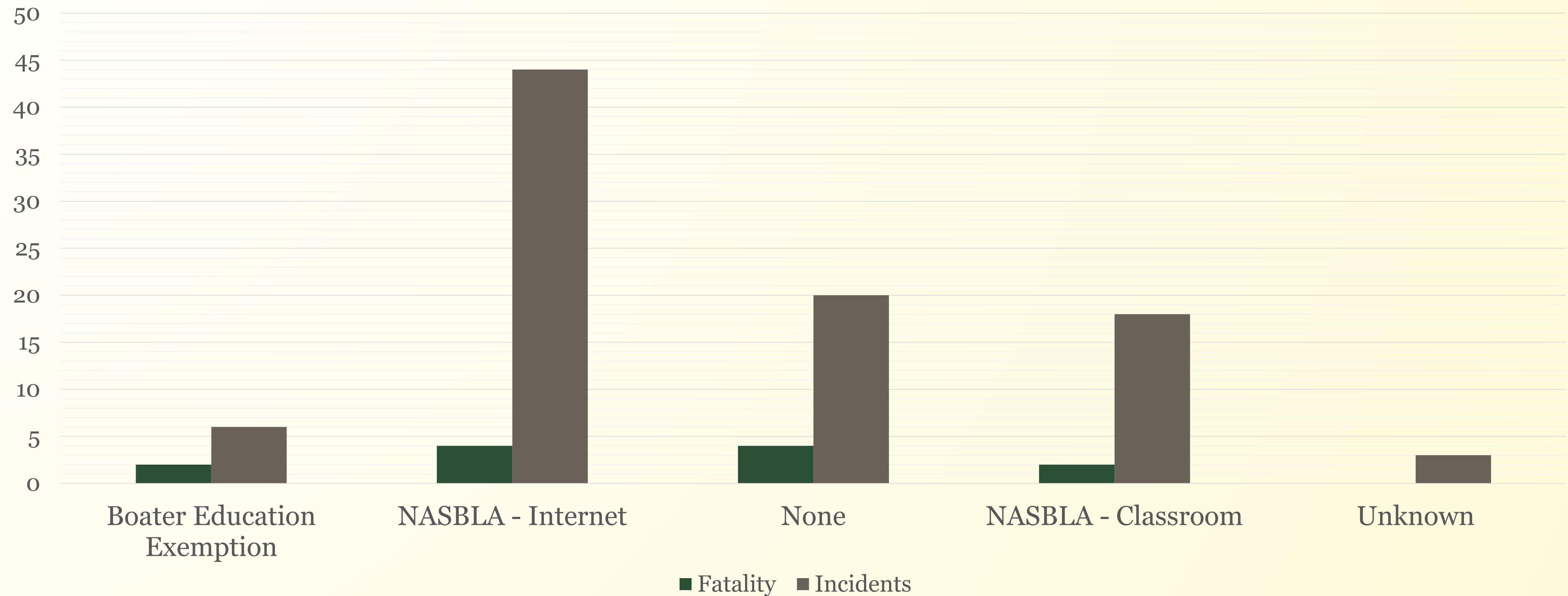
2018 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Vessel Size



2018 Boat Incidents Age of Operators



2018 Boat Incidents Education of Operators



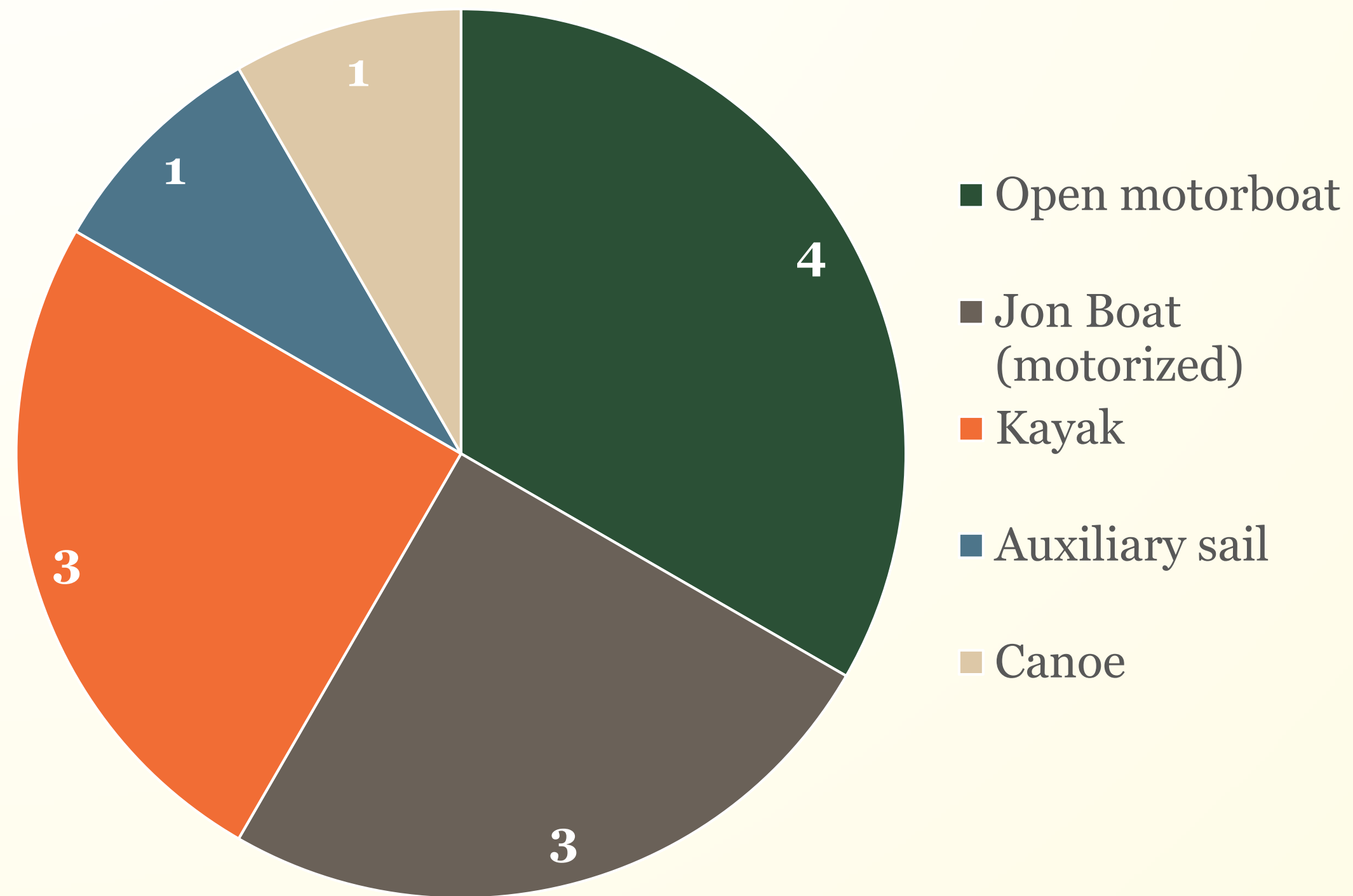
2018 Boating Incidents

Top Vessel Activity at Time of Incident

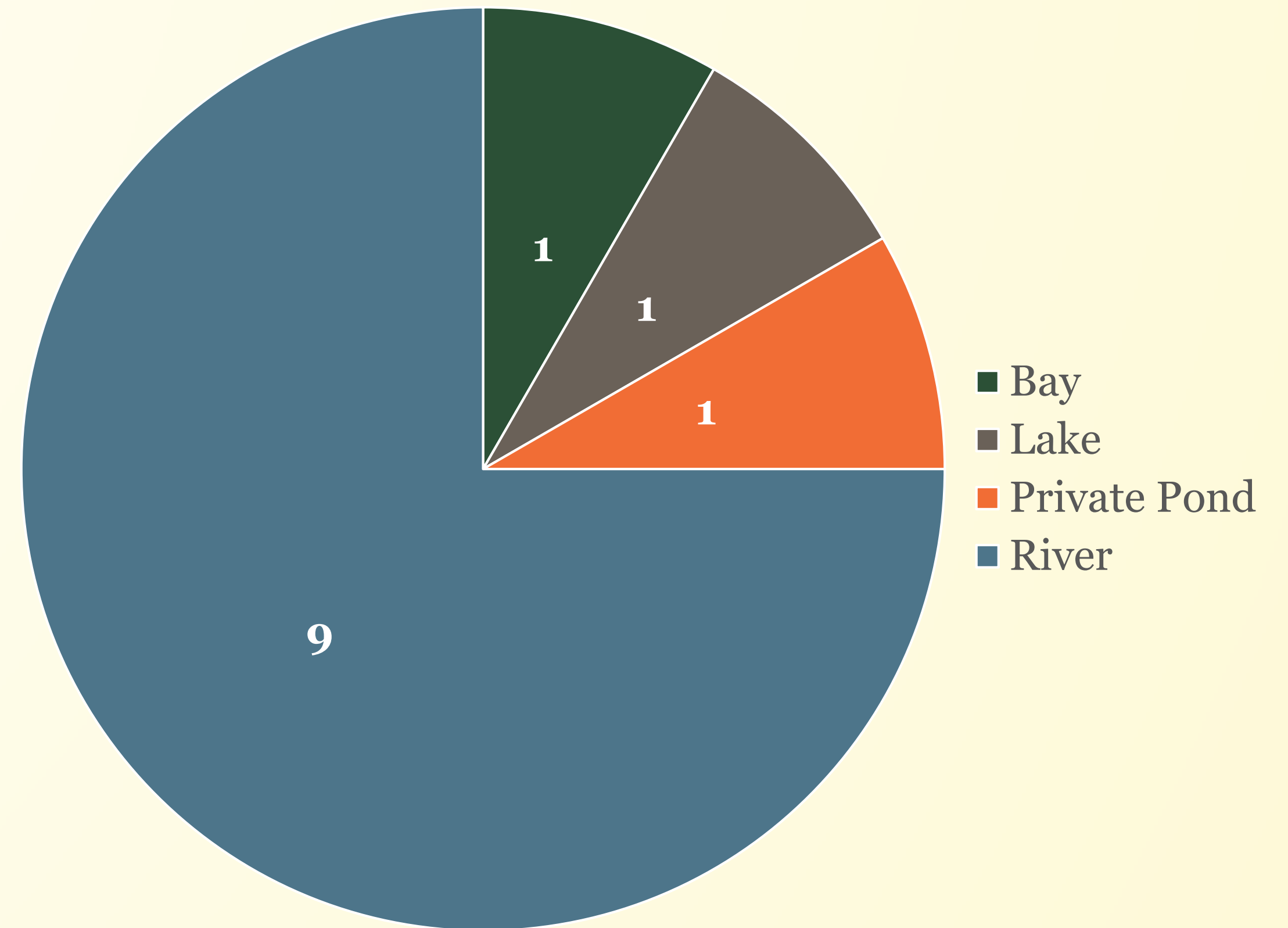


2018 Boating Fatalities

By Vessel Type

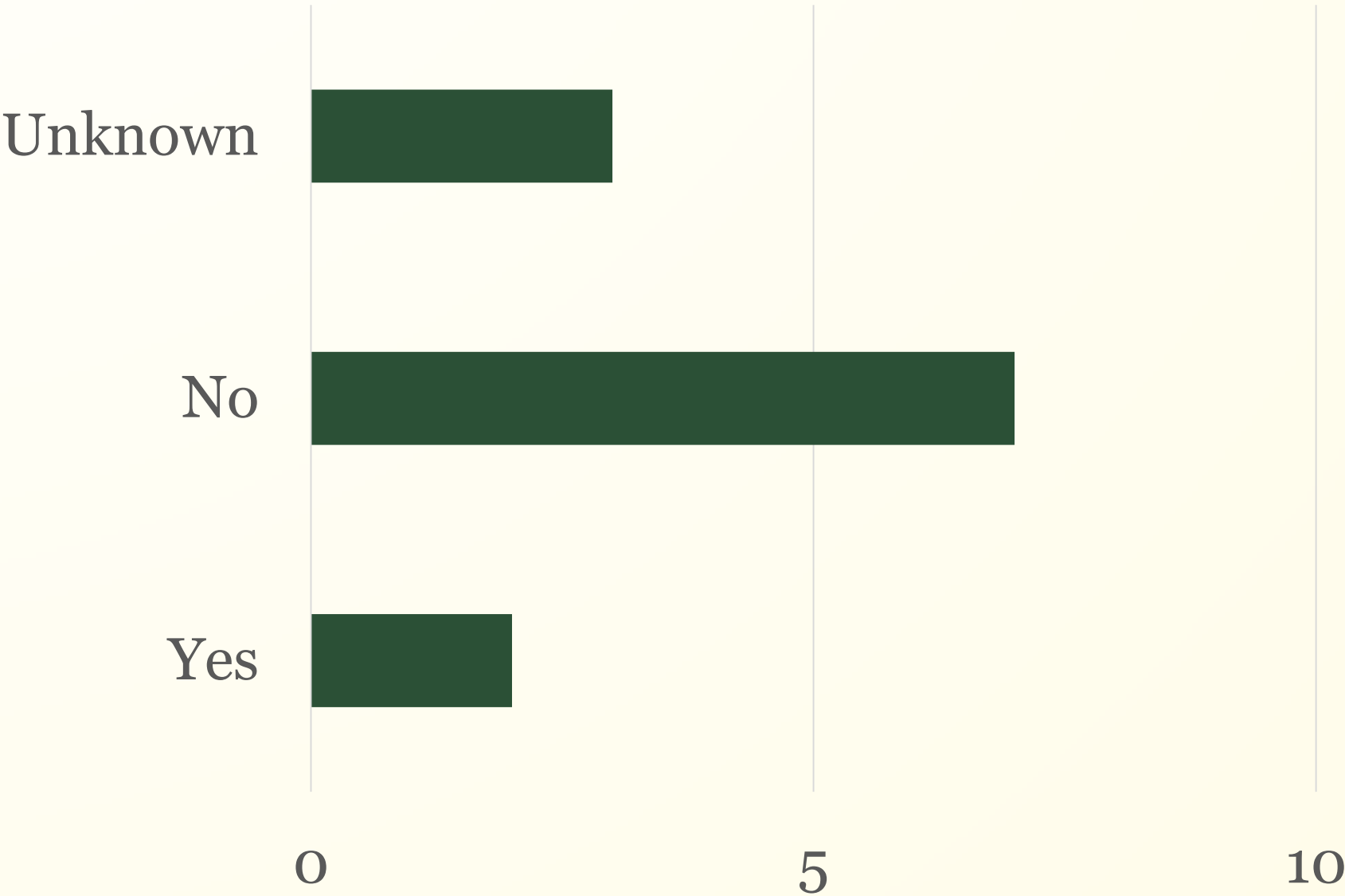


By Waterbody Type

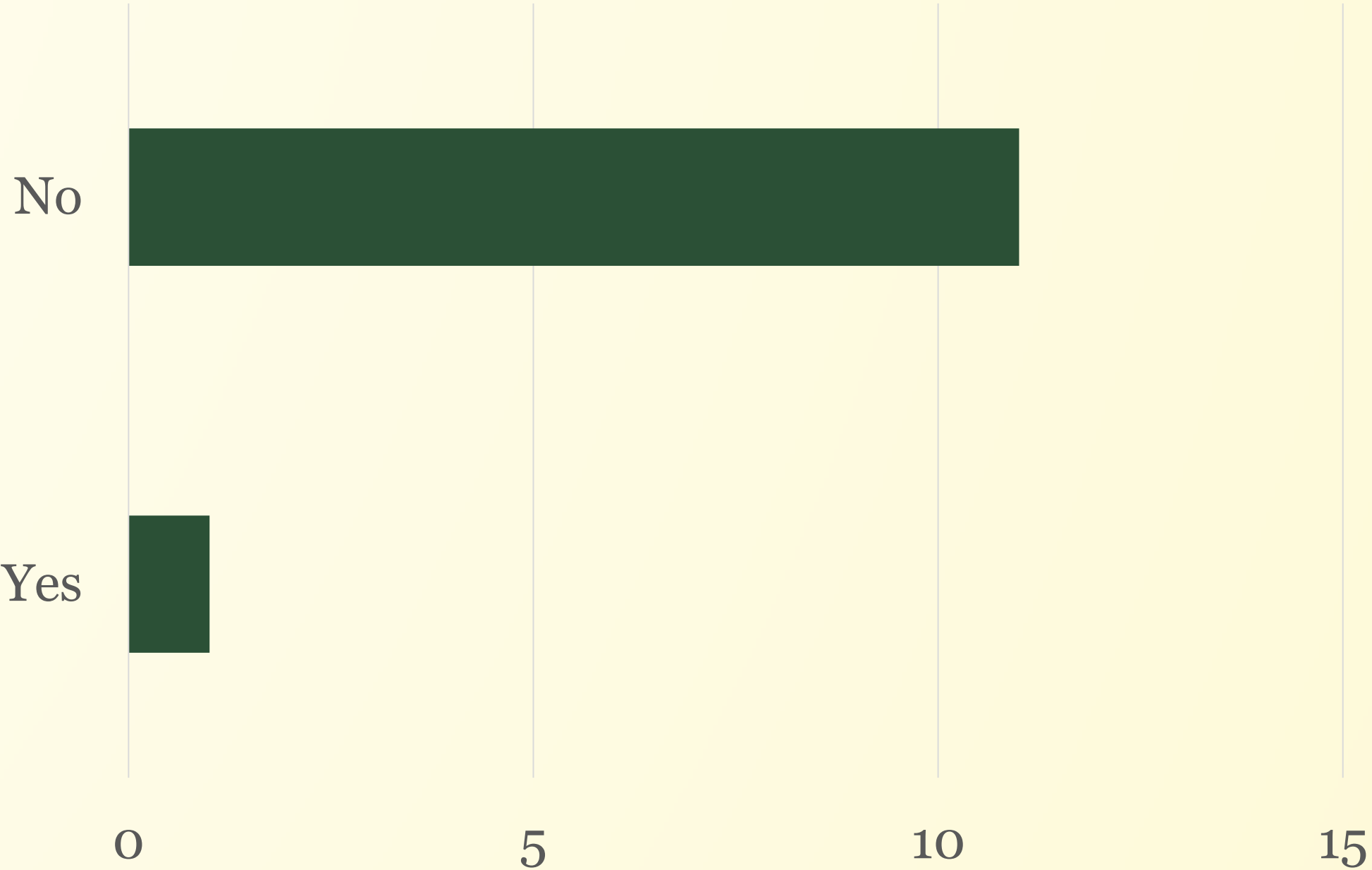


2018 Boating Fatalities

Alcohol Use

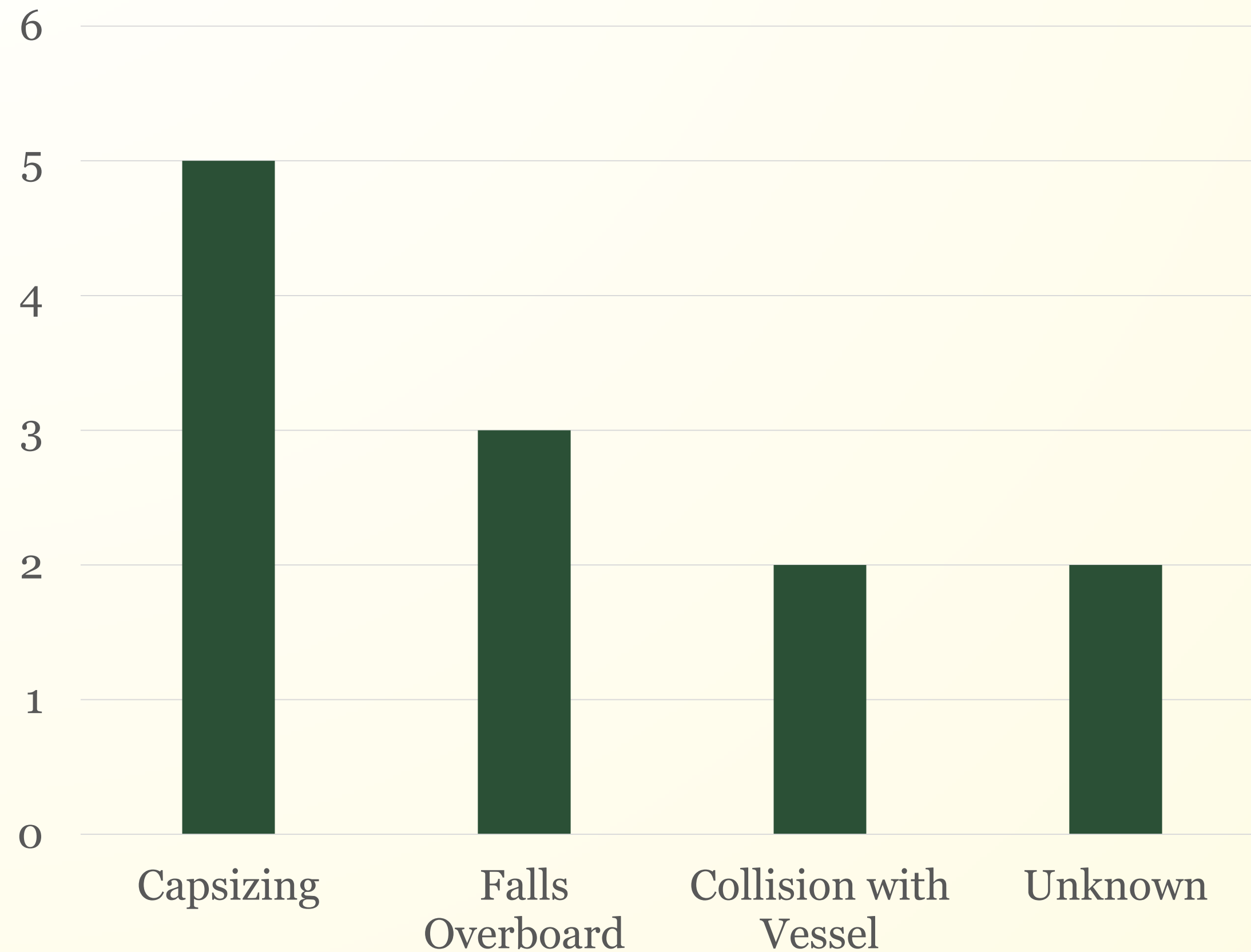


Life Jacket Use

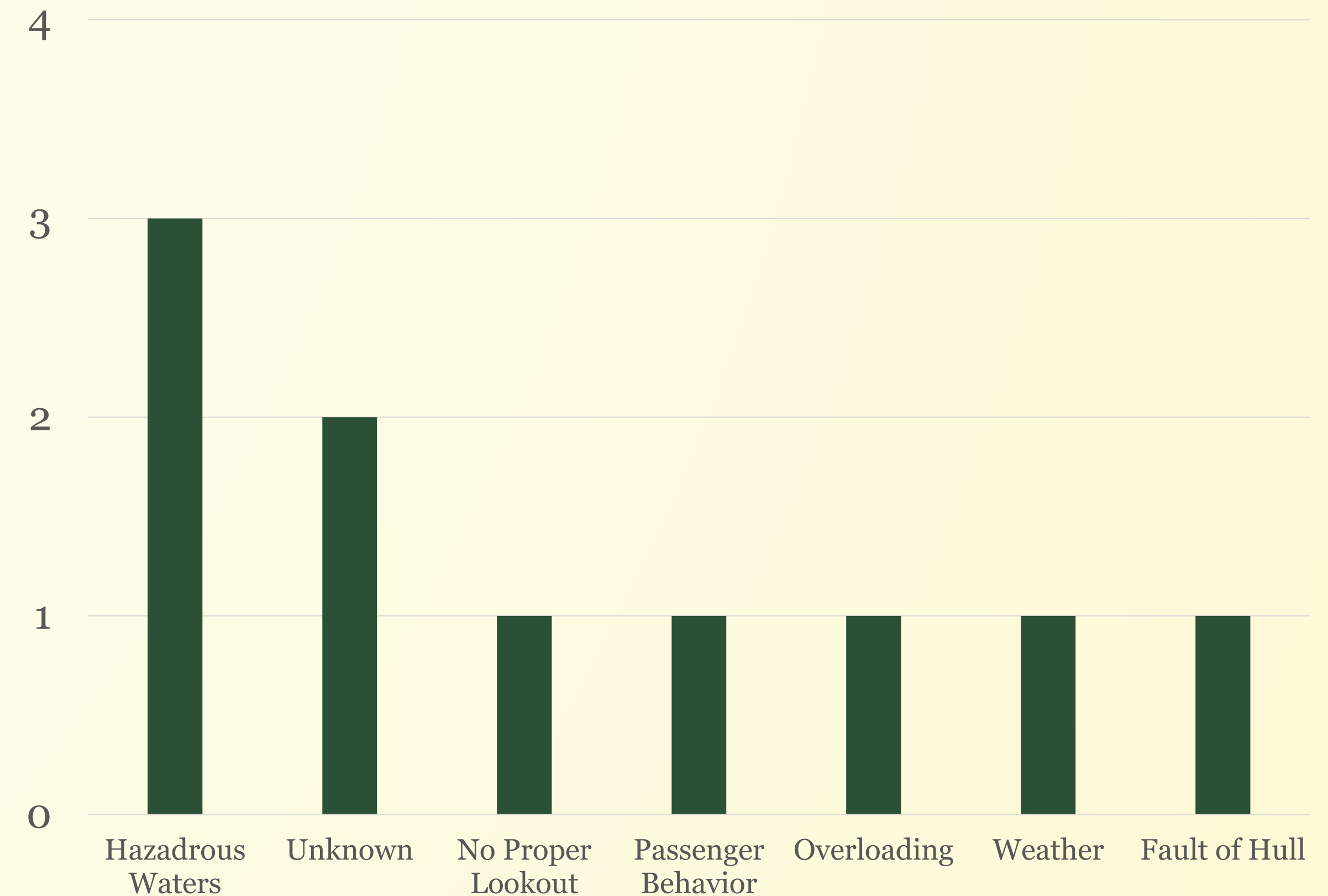


2018 Boating Fatalities

Type of Incident



Cause of Incident



2018 Boating Fatalities

1/3/2018 – James River, Time Unknown

On 1/3/2018 at 1900 hours, two male boaters ages 20 and 29, launched a 17' jon boat from Jamestown Marina to build a duck blind on Gray's Creek. This area had strong winds and large amounts of snow that night with frigid temperatures. Large areas of the James River and its tributaries were covered with ice up to 5" thick. DGIF was contacted on 1/4/2018 to report that the hunters had not returned. James City County Police verified that the boater's truck and trailer were still parked at Jamestown Marina and covered with snow. The capsized boat was located later that evening on Hog Island by helicopter. Several items from the boat were also located in that area over the next couple days during land searches by foot. The victims' bodies were not recovered until March.

2/12/2018 – James River, 2:45 pm

On 2/12/2018 two male kayakers were kayaking in the area of Belle Isle on the James River. The river was approximately 14 feet above flood stage, flowing very fast and full of debris. The victim, age 18, lost control of his kayak and was washed into a strainer where he flipped and lost his paddle. The other kayaker saw the victim come out of the strainer and appeared to attempt to right himself with his hands. Without his paddle he was not able to right his craft. He was trapped under water for 2 to 10 minutes. The companion was able to flip the victim over and take him to Belle Isle where CPR was administered until Richmond Fire Department arrive. The victim was taken to the hospital and put on life support. He was removed from life support on February 14. The victim had the appropriate white water gear including a life jacket.

4/21/2018 – Buggs Island (John H. Kerr Reservoir), 6:30 pm

On 04/21/2018 at 6:40 pm a bystander called Mecklenburg County Dispatch and reported an unoccupied boat floating near Bluestone boat ramp. The officer tried to make contact with the registered owner of the vessel, but was not able to reach the boat owner. The boat was floating with two fishing rods on one side, a rope hanging in the water attached to a cleat, and a life jacket on the driver's seat with the safety lanyard attached to it. The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Dive Team and the Lake Gaston Volunteer Fire Department Dive Team arrived on scene to assist in locating a possible body. While conducting the line search, the divers were able to locate a body at 10:49 pm. The investigator believes the victim, a 65 year old male, was attempting to tie his boat to the dock and fell into the water where he drowned.



2018 Boating Fatalities

05/15/2018 – York River, 2:00 pm

On 5/15/2018, a vessel was on the York River and was anchored from the bow when the victim, a 61 year old male, fell in the stern of the boat. His additional weight in the stern caused the vessel to become unstable. The boat swamped and then capsized. Both subjects were ejected from the boat into the water without life jackets. One passenger was able to retrieve a life jacket and put it on. The other passenger was able to retrieve a life jacket but could not put it on. The was unable to hold onto the life jacket and drowned. The victim could not swim and had a heart condition.

06/10/2018 – Shenandoah River, 1:22 pm

On 6/10/2018, a 61 year old male, was seen by a witness trying to paddle upstream through a small rapid, using only a canoe paddle and switching from side to side. The witness observed the victim paddling hard in this fashion for about 5 minutes before the witness heard a commotion and saw the victim's kayak floating down river overturned. The victim was about 5 yards behind the kayak flailing his arms and then went under the water. Boat patrols, divers and side scan sonar were unable to locate the victim until 6 days after the incident. The victim's body was located by Virginia Conservation Police on a boat patrol Friday 6/15/2018 at 1:17 pm. The victim had been drinking Four Loco alcoholic beverages the day of this incident and an empty can of this drink was found inside the kayak after it capsized. No life jacket was worn and alcohol was involved.

06/11/2018 – Chesapeake Bay, 4:40 pm

On 6/11/2018 at 4:40 pm DGIF Dispatch received a call about a boat in distress on Little Bay. The responding officer noticed a body on the beach and a 17 foot Wellcraft vessel about 20 yards from the body. The victim, a 67 year old male, was pronounced dead at 4:45 pm. Two witnesses stated that around 2:00 pm on that day, they noticed that the victim's vessel was not at his dock. This was unusual because the victim went out crabbing every morning and would be home by 12:00 pm. The two witnesses decided to go out and look for him as the weather was not good. While searching, they noticed a vessel washed up on the beach and when the men got closer, they noticed a body lying on the beach about 20 yards from the vessel. On arrival they called 911 and found the victim to be unresponsive. One of the witnesses said the victim does not wear a life jacket because it gets in the way of his work.



2018 Boating Fatalities

06/23/2018 – New River, 2:00 pm

On 6/23/2018, the victim, an 83 year old male, capsized in a kayak on the New River in Giles County, Virginia going through a set of rapids. Four witnesses attempted to rescue the man in the water and at that time their canoe almost capsized as well. The victim was washed down stream and was floating feet first down river when he went under and was last seen. Search and rescue were on scene within 30 minutes and had divers in the water within 2 hours and were not able to locate the victim. On Sunday 06/24/2018 the search began at 8:00 am and the victim was found deceased approximately a half of a mile from the location where he was last seen at 10:40 am and recovered at 11:06 am. No life jacket was worn.

07/14/2018 – James River, 7:45 am

On 7/14/2018, six people where aboard a vessel drifting in the James River when it was struck by a Tug Boat pushing 2 barges abreast. The collision caused the recreational vessel to be pushed under one of the barges. All passengers of the recreational vessel were thrown from the vessel. Four occupants were rescued and transported to the hospital and two victims, a 51 year old male and a 58 year old male, were recovered deceased on 7/16/2018. Neither victim was wearing a life jacket and neither knew how to swim.

08/09/2018 – Elizabeth River,

While attempting to moor his sailboat, the victim, a 73 year old male, accidentally fell off the boat and drowned. Alcohol was a factor and no life jacket was worn.

09/02/2018 – Lake Sherwood (Private Pond), 3:35 pm

On 09/02/18 at approximately 3:35 pm, Virginia Beach Emergency Communications (911) received a report of a drowning at Lake Sherwood with multiple victims in the water. A small canoe with two passengers had overturned on the lake. One female passenger remained with the vessel and an observer saw the male passenger panic and slip beneath the surface. The 30 year old male victim was not wearing a life jacket.

